

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment places the application into condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein), or places the application into better form for appeal should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment does not raise the issue of new matter, and does not raise new issues requiring additional search and/or consideration. The amendments were not presented earlier because they are in response to issues raised in the final rejection. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Claim 25 and 29-46 are pending in the application, Claims 26 and 27 having been canceled above.

By the above amendments, Applicants amended Claim 25, 32, 34 and 36 to address the outstanding claim objections, the section §112, second paragraph, issue and other minor informalities. Applicants also canceled Claims 26 and 27 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. A claim that has been amended in a manner that does not narrow the claim's scope should be accorded its full range of equivalents.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the §112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 25 to 46 and the §112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 36-42 and 46 in view of Applicants' previous amendments and remarks. In view of the

foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance.

Turning now to the Official Action, Claims 25-46 stand objected to for containing elected and non-elected subject matter. Applicants have further amended the claims to obviate the objection. If the Examiner believes that further and/or alternative amendments are needed, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact their undersigned representative at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If no further amendments are needed, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 25-27 and 29-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. For at least the reasons that follow, withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

In order to obviate the rejection, Applicants amended Claim 25 by deleting "a metallic element comprising" and adding the words --a-- and --compound-- so that the claim reads, in part, "... presence of a catalyst comprising a nickel compound..." Applicants made further amendments to dependent Claims 32 and 34 so that the language of those claims is consistent with that of independent Claim 25, as amended.

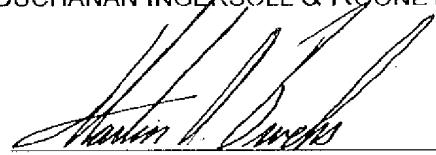
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejection.

From the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC



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By:

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